

MR. MUHR: Great. Thank you. I'm Chris Muhr. And I'm with the Outdoor Recreation Coalition, a group of outdoor manufacturers here in Grand Junction. And I'd like to thank everybody in the room for the respect that we show each other on each side of the aisle. I think if we could get our politicians to work this well, we might actually get something done in this country. I know a little bit about what a lot of the people in this room are going through. I graduated from Mesa College here with a geology degree two months after Black Sunday. So, I also did stock tips. But, as the Outdoor Rec Coalition, we don't have really a horse in this race. What I'm doing here is we're actually wanting to offer our hand and our help as a coalition of manufacturers of outdoor goods to the people, the community, and the land managers of the North Fork Valley. We're looking at a diversification of the economy up there. We've done this in the past. We've done it with Fruita. We've done it with Cortez. We're doing it right now with Ridgeway, Colorado. In fact, a guy came down from Ridgeway, and after having ridden their mountain bike trails that were just put in, and he said it's going to be like printing money up there. But, I think what we're trying to do is we would like to help drive tourism up into the North Fork Valley. We would also like to drive entrepreneurs and manufacturers and people with higher educations. We would like to take and drive people into the area so that the people in the North Fork Valley can take advantage of those extra tourism dollars and those opportunities to start businesses of their own. You know we've seen this happen in Grand Junction. We've got businesses like Bonsai Designs, who design zip-lines that go -- send them all over the world. We've got Lightner Plummer [phonetic] who designs chair lifts and sends them all over the world. Mountain racing products. Cortez has osprey packs. So, certainly there's, there's life after minerals have been played out or did they lose their pricing. And I'm one of those people. I, I have a welding and fabrication shop here in Grand Junction. You know one of the things that we started back when Oxbow had the accident which locked in their, their [indiscernible] equipment, was working with tourism officials, both at the State and the local level, to develop a plan. And we've had [indiscernible] work on this. Develop a plan to drive tourism into the area. And we hope that that plan and working with you in this room, we can additionally give some

economic boost to the area. Thank you so much. of all, for giving us the opportunity to speak on this issue. My name is Susan Permut. I live in Monument, Colorado. I live within 10 miles of two huge forest fires; the Walter Canyon fire and the Black Forest fire that we believe were caused by climate change. And we had to get ready to evacuate from those -- from those fires. It was horrific. I am here representing the Climate Reality Project. I like to say that I am British by birth, but American by choice. I grew up in the U.K. And I have -- was heated by one coal fire in the living room. And my father is from Wales, very close to the Rhondda Valley, which is one of the most important coal mining areas in Britain. So, I do know how important coal has been to the industrialization in the West and how grateful we should be to the hardworking miners, who have worked in mines all over the world. However, coalmining has a price. My father suffered from emphysema. And my brother had asthma. And I'm sure this was partly due to inhaling all the coal dust in our house. Also, mining coal and burning coal poisons our air and water and contributes to climate chaos. And for me, that is the crux of the dilemma about coal. Yes, people need good jobs and they need to be able to feed their families and enjoy the beauty of the landscape here in the West. But, we need to find a different way for all our hardworking miners to make a living. This is something that is bigger than Western Colorado or the U.S. It is a global issue. We need to find a just and equitable way to change from fossil fuels to renewable energy. I think that this temporary ban on new coal development is a step in the right direction. But, to ensure the health and wellbeing of our children, we need to make this ban permanent. So, please, make the temporary ban on new Federal coal lease -- coal leases permanent. Thank you. MS. PATTERSON: Thank you. MR. WEISHEIT: My name is John Weisheit. I live in Moab, Utah. I'm the co-founder of an organization called Living Rivers. In 2002, I became the Colorado River Keeper, which is a program of the Water Keeper Alliance. The Alliance is an international organization in six continents. I wanted to talk about the energy nexus of the Colorado River Basin. I wanted to point out that water has not done any harm to, to energy. But, energy is doing great harm to water. In 1946, Former Deputy Secretary of Interior Northcutt Ely gave a talk to the Southern Basin States at a meeting in Salt Lake City. And he

identified that the Colorado River Compact was over allocated. And he also identified the structural deficit that is in the newspapers a lot nowadays because of Lake Meade's current elevation. And he recommended to the seven States that they readjust the Colorado River Compact to reflect the reality of the Colorado River's annual supply. And he said because if we don't do this by the year, 2000, the reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin would be too low to generate electricity. That was 70 years ago. And the seven States did not react to that request by the man who actually wrote the Hoover Dam documents. No other man on the planet knew the Colorado River Compact better than Northcutt Ely. In 1957, the Scripps Institute discovered that the oceans were not absorbing carbon dioxide fast enough to eliminate the threat of a greenhouse gas affect. And in 1983, there was enough evidence to prove that carbon dioxide gases were increasing in the atmosphere. And their recommendation to the seven States was to start building infrastructure and creating water policy to live with less water. And again, the seven States ignored that advice. And now, the reservoirs of Lake Meade and Lake Powder are disastrously. And so, I can't help but think that the seven States aren't going to adjust to the climate of the future because they haven't even adjusted to the climate of the past. And -- oh, boy did that go fast. Thank you very much. I would ask that this PEIS at least look to the end of coal, since it is a finite, and not be [indiscernible] 14, 15, 16 years; but actually go the end of the life cycle of coal. Thanks.